

Message Text

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USDOC FOR BEWT/DOWNEY AND EOE/MEYER

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ESTC, UR
SUBJ: PROPOSED VISIT OF NUMERICAL CONTROL MACHINE TOOL DELEGA-
TION

REF: STATE 26039

1. COMMERCIAL ATTACHE SPOKE WITH MEL'NIKOV, DEPUTY
DIRECTOR OF MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE'S ADMINISTRATION
FOR TRADE WITH COUNTRIES OF THE AMERICAS, FEBRUARY 3
REGARDING STATUS OF SOVIET PLANNING FOR PROPOSED VISIT.

2. MEL'NIKOV SAID THAT MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE WAS
WORKING ON PROPOSED VISIT WITH OTHER INTERESTED SOVIET
ORGANIZATIONS (PRESUMABLY MINISTRY OF MACHINE-TOOL AND
INSTRUMENT-MAKING INDUSTRY, AMONG OTHERS) BUT ADDED THAT DEFINITE
REPLY WAS NOT YET READY. HE PROMISED, HOWEVER, TO PROVIDE
RESPONSE "WITHIN VERY NEAR FUTURE." MEL'NIKOV NOTED THAT
ORIGINAL TIMING FOR VISIT PROPOSED IN STATE 247189 (OCT.
17, 1975) HAD BEEN KEYED TO COCOM LIST REVIEW IN NOVEMBER
1975 AND ASKED WHETHER US WAS STILL INTERESTED IN
VISIT DESPITE DELAY. COMMATT POINTED OUT THAT REVIEW
WITHIN USG OF EXPORT LICENSING PARAMETERS WAS CONTINUING
PROCESS AND ASSURED MEL'NIKOV THAT PROPOSED VISIT HAD
LOST NONE OF ITS IMPORTANCE.

3. MEL'NIKOV ASKED WHETHER ALL OF ENTERPRISES WHICH
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US GROUP WISHED TO VISIT HAD TO BE INCLUDED

IN ITINERARY. COMMATT OBSERVED THAT LIST HAD BEEN COMPILED IN ORDER TO GIVE US GROUP AN OPPORTUNITY TO OBSERVE STATE-OF-THE-ART INSOVIET PRODUCTION OF N/C MACHINE TOOLS. WHILE US GROUP WOULD WELCOME CHANCE TO VISIT ALL OF ENTERPRISES LISTED, COMMATT SAID WE WOULD CAREFULLY CONSIDER ANY SOVIET PROPOSALS FOR DELETIONS FROM LIST OR ADDITION OF OTHER ENTERPRISES. (COMMENT: ASIDE FROM ANY PROBLEMS SOVIETS MIGHT HAVE WITH VISITS TO INDIVIDUAL PLANTS ON LIST IN PARA 6 OF STATE 247189, THEY MAY HAVE PARTICULAR PROBLEMS WITH VISIT TO TOMSK, A CLOSED CITY WHICH IS RARELY, IF EVER, VISITED BY WESTERNERS. END COMMENT).

4. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH EMBASSY UNAWARE OF WASHINGTON'S THINKING AS TO TIMING FOR VISIT, ASSUMING SOVIETS GIVE THEIR APPROVAL, ONE INTERESTING POSSIBILITY WOULD BE PERIOD FROM MARCH 30-APRIL 12 WHEN VERY LARGE FRG MACHINE TOOL EXHIBITION WILL BE RUNNING IN MOSCOW. THIS WOULD GIVE MEMBERS OF US GROUP OPPORTUNITY NOT ONLY TO OBSERVE SOVIET ACHIEVEMENTS IN PRODUCTION OF N/C MACHINE TOOLS BUT TO SEE WHAT FRG MACHINE TOOL INDUSTRY, WHICH IS OUR MAJOR COMPETITOR IN USSR, IS OFFERING FOR SALE TO SOVIETS. IN VIEW TENTATIVE PLANS OF NMTBA TO ORGANIZE SECOND U.S. MACHINE TOOL EXHIBITION IN MOSCOW DURING SPRING OF 1978 (SEE SEPTTEL), IT MIGHT BE USEFUL TO INCLUDE MANAGEMENT-LEVEL BEWT REPRESENTATIVE, IN US GROUP, PARTICULARLY IF VISIT COINCIDES WITH FRG EXHIBITION. STOESEL

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